

I, the House stands in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. EWING] at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Open our ears, O God, to hear the majesty of Your whole creation, a creation of words and music and nature. May not the rush of each day and the multitude of voices that beckon us from one task to another, keep us from hearing Your message of beauty, of renewal, of hope, of healing, and of peace. Free us, O gracious God, from any isolation that keeps our hearts and minds apart from Your grace so we miss the words and sounds that resonate with our humanity and encourage us to be people You would have us be. Bless us this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this matter will be postponed until later today.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker pro tempore signed the following enrolled bills on Tuesday April 2, 1996: H.R. 956, to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation, and for other purposes; H.R. 1561, to consolidate the foreign affairs agencies of the United States; to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1996 and 1997; to responsibly reduce the authorizations of appropriations for United States foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 1996 and 1997, and for other purposes; H.R. 1833, to amend title 18, United States Code, to ban partial-birth abortions; and H.R. 2854, to modify the operation of certain agricultural programs.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER OF ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of section 3(a) of Public Law 86-380, and the order of the House of Friday, March 29, 1996, authorizing the Speaker and the minority leader to appoint commissions, boards, and committees authorized by law or by the House, the Speaker on April 2, 1996, did appoint the following Member of the House to the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations: Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey.

IT IS TIME TO GIVE WORKING AMERICAN FAMILIES A BREAK

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, it is April 15, tax day. Today is the day that millions of Americans, as they struggle to file their tax forms all across this country on time, are reminded just how much they are being fleeced by the Federal Government. Every time taxes go up, the working people of this Nation get hurt.

But we will have an opportunity later this evening to help taxpayers, to put the brakes on the never-ending cycle of taxing and spending by voting for a constitutional amendment to prevent any Federal tax increase that does not have at least two-thirds of Congress supporting it.

Those of us who have cosponsored this amendment have a very simple objective: We want to make it harder for the Federal Government to take hard-earned dollars out of the pockets of working American families. For every 8 hours an American works, more than 3 hours go to pay taxes. If you work 5 days, Monday and Tuesday go to the Government; only Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday go to support your family.

Well, enough is enough. This has to stop, Mr. Speaker. It is time to give the American taxpayers a break. Let us do it today.

HAPPY TAX DAY

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Medicare trust fund had its first deficit in history, and the reason given was payroll taxes were less than expected.

Now, how could this be if there have been 8 million new jobs? Could it be that maybe these jobs are very suspect?

Check this out: Screw supervisor, nut former, ball sorter, needle straightener, bucket chucker, splitter, creaser, slaughter operator. Do not laugh. These are all jobs listed by the Department of Labor.

If that is not high-tech enough for you, how about sucker machine operator? How about carcass splitter. Just imagine, if we create more sucker machine operators and carcass splitters, we will balance the budget.

If anybody asks my opinion, I would have to say beam me up. I think these screw supervisors all work for the Internal Revenue Service. Happy Tax Day.

THE TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, later this evening we are going to have a historic vote, the first vote on a supermajority requirement to raise your taxes. The amend is to my left, and you will have an opportunity to read it.

When I was in the fourth grade at Travis Elementary in Bryan, TX, my fourth-grade teacher was Miss Andrews. That is where I learned fractions. I learned in the fall of 1960 that two-thirds is a higher fraction than one-half. If you can understand that concept, then you understand the tax limitation constitutional amendment.

Those of us that support it want to make it more difficult to raise your taxes. If you agree with that, then support the Congressmen who are going to vote for the Barton tax limitation amendment later on this evening on the floor.

SUPPORT THE D.C. ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this is taxpayers day. I have introduced a bill